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Farm Broadcasters Letter



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Letter No. 2296

January 22, 1987

IMPORTING COARSE GRAIN COUNTRIES

The sudden re-emergence of China as a major importer of coarse grains and large purchases by the USSR have helped absorb some surplus global exportable supplies. Until southern hemisphere crops become available in March, any major additional sales for nearby delivery may have to be covered by the U.S., according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. China's corn imports are now expected to be at least 1 million 300 thousand tons. Since the present contracts call for delivery only through June, China may yet purchase additional corn for the July-Sept. quarter.

USSR GRAIN PURCHASES

The estimate of USSR grain imports for the 1986/87 marketing year is still 21 million tons, including 12 million wheat; 8 million coarse grains; and one million rice and miscellaneous grains, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Total commitments from all origins are now estimated at around 15 million tons. Soviet grain buyers now appear to have covered about 80 pct. of projected wheat imports and nearly three-fourths of projected coarse grain imports.

CONSERVATION RESERVE SIGNUP

Farmers who want to bid to enter their highly erodible cropland into the U.S. Department of Agriculture's 10-year Conservation Reserve Program may do so during the signup period from Feb. 9 through 27. Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng also announced a one-time, one-year "bonus" for the 1987 crop, to be paid in the form of an increased annual rental payment. The bonus payment will be equal to \$2.00 times the farm program payment yield for corn, times the number of acres of corn base designed for enrollment in the Conservation Reserve. For details, contact the local ASCS office.

WORLD WHEAT PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

The world production of wheat for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at a record 522 million 500 thousand tons, up 800 thousand tons, (5 pct.) from the 1985/86 harvest. U.S. production is estimated at 56 million 800 thousand tons, down 14 pct. from last year. Wheat production in the European Community is estimated at 71 million 600 thousand tons, down slightly from last year. China's production is estimated at a record 88 million 500 thousand tons, up 3 pct. from last year.

DAIRY SURPLUS
TO CANADA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation announced a sale of up to 6 million 600 thousand pounds of standard grade nonfat dry milk valued at \$1 million 350 thousand to the Canadian Dairy Commission of Ottawa. The nonfat dry milk will be used in the manufacture of animal feed products. The Canadian Dairy Commission has an option to take an additional 2,000 metric tons subject to the same terms as the 3,000 metric tons just purchased.

WORLD COARSE
GRAINS PROD.
HIGHLIGHTS

The world production of coarse grains for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 838 million 100 thousand tons, down 1 pct. from the record 1985/86 harvest. U.S. production is estimated at 252 million 900 thousand tons, down 8 pct. from last year's record crop. East Europe coarse grain production is estimated at 72 million 200 thousand tons, up 6 pct. from last year. The European Community production is estimated at 81 million 200 thousand tons, down 8 pct. from last year. China's production is estimated at 86 million 600 thousand tons, up 5 pct. from last year.

WORLD OILSEEDS
PRODUCTION
HIGHLIGHTS

The world oilseeds production for 1986/87 is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at a record 195 million 200 thousand tons, virtually unchanged from last year. U.S. production is estimated at 61 million 300 thousand tons, down 6 pct. from last year. The world soybean production is estimated at a record 98 million 600 thousand tons, up 2 pct. from last year.

U.S. CORN
IN STORAGE

Corn stored in all positions on Dec. 1, 1986, is estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 10 billion 300 million bushels. Of the total stocks, 6 billion 800 million bushels were stored on the farm and 3 billion 510 million were stored off the farm.

U.S. WHEAT
IN STORAGE

All wheat stocks in all positions on Dec. 1, 1986, were estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 2 billion 660 million bushels. Wheat stored on-farms is 1 billion 60 million bushels. Off-farm stocks total 1 billion 600 million bushels, or 60 pct. of the total stock.

WINTER WHEAT
SEEDINGS

The area seeded for the 1987 winter wheat crop is placed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at 48 million 700 thousand acres, down 10 pct. from 1986. The acreage is down in the Great Plains, the Western States, the eastern Corn Belt, and the Southeast. Only the Delta States, Delmarva, Kentucky and West Virginia show increases.

DAIRY
TERMINATION
PROGRAM UPDATE

An estimated 10,400 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally-inspected plants during the week ending Jan. 2 as a result of the Dairy Termination Program, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The cumulative total of cattle slaughtered under the program from April 1 through Jan. 2 is an estimated 932,000 head.

FROM OUR
TELEVISION
SERVICE

U.S. WEATHER UPDATE...USDA chief meteorologist Dr. Norton Strommen takes a look at how wet conditions have affected the harvesting of the cotton crop as well as other harvesting and planting conditions throughout the U.S. in the latest weather and crop update. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (111)

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES...USDA economist Paul Andrilenas focuses on major factors expected to cause reduced use of fertilizer and pesticides and reasons behind the decrease in farm machinery purchases. Vic Powell interviews. (112)

CROP PRODUCTION ESTIMATES...U.S. crop estimates for 1986 showed increase in all coarse grains, and total output was up two million tons from last month. USDA economist David Hull describes these and other factors contributing to current crop production estimates. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (113)

ARS RESEARCH FEATURES...USDA agricultural research scientists are discovering that barley and oats can reduce cholesterol levels; and measuring root strength in plants to protect the future of food crops. Will Pemble reports. (114)

SEX EDUCATION FOR PIGS...Phil Dziuk, University of Illinois, talks about the importance of establishing contact between male and female pigs in early stages to develop proper breeding performances. Gary Beaumont interviews. (115)

FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1547...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) The 1986 National Soil and Water Conservation winners are three farm families from West Virginia, Iowa and Oklahoma. On this edition of Agriculture USA Brenda Curtis talks to the farm families about their conservation farming techniques.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1536...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Conservation Reserve sign-up; More on conservation reserve sign-up; Switching instead of fighting; Plant resistance and biotechnology.

CONSUMER TIME #1029...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Winter vegetable prices; Diet and living longer; No-no to spray waxes; Hail to the pizza; Overdosing on vitamins.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Fri, Jan. 30, Ag. prices; Export markets for world grains; Tues, Feb. 3, Weekly weather and crop report; Mon, Feb. 9, Crop production; World ag. supply and demand; Soviet grain situation and outlook; Horticultural products review. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

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USDA RADIO FEATURES. A monthly script service featuring a variety of short items on a variety of subjects. For a sample copy, write Jim Johnson.

OFF MIKE

Wey Simpson (KAQQ, Spokane, WA) has a new telephone number. It's 509-448-4636. When Wey called about the new number, we talked a bit about the upcoming NAFB Regional Meeting in Seattle (May 1-3). It will overlap by a day the National Food & Agriculture Exposition (April 29-30, May 1). Concerning the Exposition, we've been in contact with Mary Beth Lang, the new information officer for Washington State's Department of Agriculture. She says they expect a lot of exhibitors and foreign lookers/buyers. So, we're planning to take in both events, the exhibition with video cameraman, and the regional meeting with an appetite (we're expecting at least one great seafood meal, it being Seattle and all) ... Unfortunately, there's an overlap between the West's NAFB regional meeting and the South-Central regional meeting. That one is scheduled for April 30-May 2 in Baton Rouge. We had hoped to attend it as well (also with appetite in tow). But it looks like we'll have to miss it ... Speaking of the NC region, Kelly Lenz (WIBW, Topeka, KS) reports in his CHATS column that Gary Meserve is no longer the farm director at KANS, Larned, KS, due to a change in programming policy ... The latest issue of CHATS also reports the dates for the North Central NAFB regional meeting are June 4-6, and the meeting will be held in Minneapolis/St. Paul. Discovery can be a fun thing, especially if the item of discovery is a useful one. Such was the case with our Brenda Curtis-Heiken. She was "poking" around in Dialcom's master computer system seeing what was available. From the master menu, she went into UPI and found another menu that included the UPI Day Book. This is where UPI lists all the press conferences, hearings, etc. taking place in Washington each day. Brenda was delighted. USDA Radio likes to know what is happening around town in case it applies to agriculture and needs to be covered. So, those of you who access our USDA Radio News Service will be the ultimate beneficiaries of "Brenda's Discovery."



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